

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

County Clerk  
County of: Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Project Title: Bear River Wildfire Recovery Project – SNC 1400

Project Location – Specific: 264 acres owned by Nevada Irrigation District (NID) in the Bear River Watershed 2.5 miles west and northwest of Colfax, California, and 2.5 miles upstream of Bear River Campground. APN #s include: 028-310-013-000; 028-370-002-000; 028-310-005-000; 027-040-012-000; 027-050-018-000

Project Location - City: Colfax, CA

Project Location - County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Sierra Nevada Conservancy would provide funding to address existing burned forest conditions from the 2021 River Fire on Nevada Irrigation District (NID) land through priority fire fuels treatment to reduce wildfire risk within the Wildland Urban Interface and promote forest recovery. The project would remove burned trees on at least 150 acres of NID land in a mixed mid-elevation ponderosa pine and hardwood that burned at high intensity in the River Fire, including on the steep slopes of the Bear River canyon, between Chicago Park and Lake of the Pines in Nevada County. Implementation of the project would expedite recovery of a healthy and functional forest community and watershed conditions, safeguard water quality and water supply, promote sediment attenuation through erosion control measures, improve carbon sequestration, and protect an existing water treatment plant and multiple communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nevada Irrigation District

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption, CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (class 4)

Reasons why project is exempt: The Bear River Wildfire Recovery Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15304, Class 4, which consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The minor land alterations proposed by the project consist of forestry treatments to reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI and improve forest health. In addition, CAL FIRE has accepted the applicant's Notice of Emergency per Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 1052 thru 1052.5 for harvesting dead, dying or diseased trees of any size in amounts less than 10 percent of the average volume per acre, where timber operations will meet the conditions listed in 14 CCR Section 1038(b) and for removal of slash and woody debris not located within a watercourse and lake protection zone. The project activities have been analyzed and would not result in significant adverse impacts or any exceptions to the exemption.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Shannon Ciotti

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-906-7345

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes  No

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/3/2022 Title: Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Signed by Lead Agency: Yes

Signed by Applicant: No

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.